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Message Text

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20
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 OMB-01 /102 W
---------- 057816
R 161745Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4518
INFO USMISSION NATO
COMICEDEFOR
CINCLANT
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT IC
SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION: CAMPAIGN JOCKEYING BEGINS

REF: REYKJAVIK 0659

1. MUCH TO DELIGHT OF OPPOSITION PARTIES, LEFTIST VOTE MAY BE FURTHER FRAGMENTED GENTRY ONTO BALLOT FOR JUNE 30 ELECTIONS OF TWO ADDITIONAL LEFTIST GROUPS. MAOIST GROUP (APPARENTLY CONSISTING OF SMALL NUMBER OF EXTREME YOUTHS) AND DISSIDENT MEMBERS OF PROGRESSIVE PARTY YOUTH GROUP BOTH ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO SUBMIT TICKETS. GETTING PLACED ON BALLOT REQUIRES PETITION SIGNED BY 2000 VOTERS BUT PLACES NO SUBSEQUENT VOTING OBLIGATION ON SIGNERS. THUS DISSIDENT SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE FINDING SIGNERS AMONG OPPOSITION WELL-WISHERS. YOUNG PROGRESSIVES DIFFER PUBLICLY WITH PARENT PARTY ON DEFENSE ISSUE (THEY STAND FOR IMMEDIATE
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EXPULSION OF IDF AND TERMINATION OF DEFENSE AGREEMENT) BUT THEIR

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MAIN COMPLAINT APPEARS TO STEM FROM BEHIND-THE-SCENES FAILURE TO OBTAIN PARTY NOMINATIONS FOR ALTHING SEATS.

2. INDEPENDENCE PARTY NEWSPAPER VISIR PUBLISHED ANOTHER OF ITS PERIODIC OPINION POLLS ON MAY 13 SHOWING RESULTS OF QUESTIONS TO VOTERS RE THEIR PREFERENCES IN COMING ELECTIONS. SIGNIFICANT THING ABOUT THIS POLL WAS THAT NEARLY HALF OF PEOPLE QUESTIONED EITHER REFUSED TO REPLY OR WERE UNDECIDED. OF THOSE WHO DID REPLY, A SIMPLE MAJORITY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE PARTY. VISIR COMMENTS IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO THINK IP WOULD WIN MAJORITY IN ALTHING BUT RESULTS SEEM TO MEAN THAT IP SUPPORTERS ARE "MORE SATISFIED WITH THEIR PARTY THAN THE SUPPORTERS OF OTHER PARTIES." THE MAJOR QUESTION, VISIR SAID, "IS HOW THE 48 PERCENT WHO DID NOT GIVE ANSWERS WILL DISTRIBUTE THEIR VOTES ON JUNE 30."

3. EMBARRASSMENT TO GOVT COALITION COMES FROM NECESSITY TO TERMINATE PERMISSION GIVEN TO EAST GERMAN TRAWLERS TO CHANGE CREWS IN ICELANDIC PORTS. COMMUNIST FISHERIES MINISTER LUDVIK JOSEPSSON HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES TO ALTHING THAT EAST GERMAN TRAWLERS WERE NOT FISHING NEAR ICELAND AND THAT THEY WERE NOT FACTORY SHIPS (BEING UNDER 3000 TONS). GOVT WAS FORCED TO ACT WHEN 10,000-TON MOTHER SHIP WAS SPOTTED 80 MILES OFF COAST ON ICELAND'S SHELF SERVICING TRAWLERS AND THEN HEADING FOR EYKJAVIK TO CHANGE CREWS. MORE WILL BE HEARD IN CAMPAIGN OF CHARGE THAT JOSEPSSON WAS WILLING TO GIVE TO EAST GERMANS PRIVILEGES HE WAS RIGHTEOUSLY DENYING TO WEST GERMANS.

4. WITH ONLY TEN DAYS REMAINING BEFORE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, FIRST EFFORTS ARE NECESSARILY DIRECTED TOWARD THEM. HOWEVER, INITIAL JOCKEYING FOR POSITION AND SEARCHING FOR NATIONAL ISSUES FOR JUNE 30 ELECTIONS HAS CLEARLY BEGUN.
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Disposition Authority: boyleja
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Executive Order: N/A
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